

Appl. No. 09/687,138  
Amdt. dated October 17, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2003

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Amendments to the Claims:

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:*

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the method comprising:  
determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;  
determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution conduit;  
determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start time;  
and  
storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time; and  
detecting a user request to begin playing the program after the storing step has begun.
  2. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel and an analog channel.
  3. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the first and second distribution conduits share a same channel.
  4. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start

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times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises a broadband network connection.

A2 5. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining the stagger time comprises subtracting the first start time from the second start time.

6. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the segment at a user location.

7. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the segment in a non-volatile manner.

8. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the segment on a rotating disk.

9. (Original) The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, further comprising recording the segment from the first distribution conduit.

10. (Currently Amended) A distribution program product for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the distribution program product comprising:

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code for determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;

code for determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution conduit;

code for determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start time;

code for storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time that begins storing the segment before a user requests the program; and

a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

11. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel and an analog channel.

12. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and second distribution conduits share a same channel.

13. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and second distribution conduits share a same transponder.

14. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises a broadband network connection.

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15. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for determining the stagger time comprises code for subtracting the first start time from the second start time.

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16. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment comprises code for storing the segment at a user location.

17. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment comprises code for storing the segment on a rotating disk.

18. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, further comprising code for recording the segment from the first distribution conduit.

19. (Original) The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment comprises code for storing the segment in a non-volatile manner.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the method comprising:

determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;

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determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution conduit, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel, an analog channel, a broadband network;

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determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start time, wherein the determining the stagger time comprises subtracting the first start time from the second start time; and

storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time, wherein the storing the segment comprises beginning to store ~~storing~~ the segment proximate to a user location before the user requests to view the program.